

BISHOPS STORTFORD 0, WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1

WYCOMBE WANDERERS, at present lying in the runners-up position in the Premier Division of the Isthmian League, made hard work of overcoming the current bottom club in the table, Bishops Stortford, on Saturday.

The George Wilson Stadium pitch was in fine condition, conducive to good football and despite the paucity of goals the game did turn out to be a more exciting contest than many of Wycombe's recent encounters.

The first half was a dull affair, with passes on both sides going woefully astray, but Wycombe showed more zest and determination in the second period than they have shown for weeks.

Honours in the first half went to Bishops Stortford. The home side played hard and fast early on, with the knowledge that in its precarious position in the league table, every point was vital.

In the opening five minutes, they mounted three good attacks. One tremendous shot from a free kick by Brame flashing past an upright and on the quarter hour, Eddie Dilsworth sent Brame away on the left, whose perfect cross was headed only inches over by Perry.

DROVE HARD

It was not all one-way traffic. John Priestley and Derek Harris both drove hard and low to bring the best from Carrick in the Stortford goal.

On 17 minutes, Stortford went close to gaining the lead. A corner on the left curled low towards the Wycombe goal, and only Graham McKenzie's presence on the line saved Wycombe.

Bishops Stortford continued the pressure and Dilsworth and Dear were a constant threat. The home side showed more cohesion and Brame saw a suspect defence through any crisis.

On the stroke of half time, Stortford forced another corner and a poor clearance by Priestley gave Smith the space to shoot from fully 25 yards out, sending Spittle full-stretch to the foot of his post.

Although Stortford resumed their pressure at the opening of the second half, it soon became clear that their fitness was in question. Wycombe gradually began to assert their authority, not only up front, but also in midfield.

Dilsworth tired, the pressure on Spittle began to ease, and more through balls were played to Harris and Horseman, and both began to look more dangerous than earlier.

RUGBY TACKLE

On 65 minutes, a touch of drama led to the only goal. Tony Horseman, on the half way line, flicked across to Holifield, whose perfect through ball found the feet of Derek Harris. Harris jinked around the advancing Carrick, who saved a certain goal by performing a passable rugby tackle on Harris. He was 'booked' for his trouble.

The resulting free kick, only just outside the penalty box was a vintage Horseman effort. Bending the ball over and round the 'wall', he gave Carrick little chance as the ball crept inside the post.

From the goal, Wanderers went from strength to strength, and when Dylan Evans substituted Howard Kennedy after 78 minutes, Wycombe fairly buzzed without adding to their score.